

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 6 and 7, amend claims 1 and 3-5 and add claims 8-15 as follows:

1.(Currently Amended) A trigger mechanism for at least two fluorescent tubes (6, 7) connected to a common transformer circuit (5), comprising: wherein the trigger mechanism (2) has at least:

one a backlight control circuit (3) that receives a first current signal representative of the current flowing through a first fluorescent tube, and a second current signal representative of the current flowing through a second fluorescent tube, and adjustably sets a lamp current dependent upon whether the trigger mechanism is operating in day mode or night mode; with at least two detection inputs (a2, a3) for detection of lamp currents (I1, I2) flowing through the fluorescent tubes (6, 7), wherein the detected lamp currents (I1, I2) can be set by the control circuit (3) in a day mode with higher current strengths and a night mode with lower current strengths;

a switch that is configured and arranged to shunt the outputs of the first and second tubes, wherein in the night mode the switch is closed and the first and second current signals lamp currents (I1, I2) in the night mode can be detected by the backlight control circuit jointly, and in the day mode the switch is open and the first and second current signal are they can be detected by the backlight control circuit separately from each other.

2.(Cancelled)

3.(Currently Amended) The trigger mechanism of claim 1, where according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the backlight control circuit (3), upon detecting a drop below a minimum current value, reduces the a-lamp current (I1, I2) and initiates a burst mode to produce an ignition.

4.(Currently Amended) The trigger mechanism of claim 1, where the control circuit is located within an integrated circuit that provides a PWM output signal to a MOSFET that provides, via the common transformer circuit, a lamp current signal that is split to provide the first and second current signals, according to one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the control circuit (3) is integrated.

5.(Currently Amended) A fluorescent tube Ddriver circuit, comprising: for at least two fluorescent tubes (6, 7), with

a transformer network that provides a lamp current signal that is split to a first current signal and a second current signal;

a first current path that receives the first current signal, and includes a first ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a first fluorescent tube; a trigger circuit (2) according to one of the foregoing claims for connection to first connection contacts (8, 10) of the fluorescent tubes;

a second current path that receives the second current signal and is electrically parallel to the first current path, and includes a second ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a second fluorescent tube;

a backlight controller trigger mechanism, which includes a control circuit that receives the first current signal and the second current signal, in a day operating mode the control circuit receives each of the first and second current signals and sets the value of the lamp current signal, and in a night operating mode receives the first and second current signals that have been coupled together while operating in the night operating mode. two impedances, preferably capacitors (CL12, CL13), which can be connected to second connection contacts (9, 11) of the fluorescent tubes (6, 7) to form voltage divider circuits, and

~~a transformer circuit (5), which is joined to the impedances via a common connection line (14).~~

6.(Cancelled)

7.(Cancelled)

8.(New) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 5, comprising a switch that in a first position associated with the night operating mode shunts the first and second current signals at a low voltage side of the first and second fluorescent tubes.

9.(New) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 8, where the switch comprises a semiconductor switch.

10.(New) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 8, where the control circuit comprises a dual cold cathode fluorescent lamp backlight inverter integrated circuit.

11.(New) The fluorescent tube drive circuit of claim 9, where the control circuit comprises a LT1768 integrated circuit.

12.(New) A liquid crystal display backlight control circuit, comprising:
a transformer network that provides a lamp current signal that is split to a first current signal and a second current signal;

a first current path that receives the first current signal, and includes a first ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a first fluorescent lamp;

a second current path that receives the second current signal and is electrically parallel to the first current path, and includes a second ballast serially connected to a high voltage side of a second fluorescent lamp; and

a backlight controller trigger mechanism that in a day operating mode circuit receives each of the first and second current signals and sets the value of the lamp current signal, and in a night operating mode receives the first and second current signals that have been coupled together.

13.(New) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 12, comprising a double pole single throw semiconductor switch that in a first position which is associated with the night operating mode shunts the first and second current signals at a low voltage side of the first and second fluorescent tubes.

14.(New) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 13, where the control circuit comprises a dual cold cathode fluorescent lamp backlight inverter integrated circuit.

15.(New) The liquid crystal display backlight control circuit of claim 14, where the control circuit comprises a LT1768 integrated circuit.